



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: April 2, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(d) :Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source contract to the Anahuak Youth Association for interpretive program development and delivery for the Los Angeles River Junior Ranger program and the Transit to Trails program from Proposition 84 funds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a sole source contract to the Anahuak Youth Association for interpretive program development and delivery for the Los Angeles River Junior Ranger program and the Transit to Trails program from Proposition 84 funds.

Background: On July 9, 2007 the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of the Los Angeles River Watershed, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth. The grant specifically highlighted two programs that the MRCA operates in partnership with the Anahuak Youth Association

The first, the Los Angeles River Rangers is a weekly program for youth 8-12 designed to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the Los Angeles River. Programs will be held at Marsh Street Park, the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens and pocket parks managed by the MRCA along the Los Angeles River. In addition to endangered species, ecology, importance of the watershed, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology, the River Ranger program focuses on identification of plants and animals of the Los Angeles River Watershed, water ecology and stewardship. Over the course of 12 months two classes of 20 young people will go through the program, which culminates in a graduation ceremony and a student led nature walk for the families of participants.

The second component of the contract is for the development and implementation of monthly Transit to Trails Program for families from disadvantaged communities to parklands owned and managed by the MRCA in the watershed and participation in interpretive programs at those parks. It should be noted that food and transportation funds for this program are provided by a separate funding source.

The total contract is for \$100,000 for twelve months of programming. Funds will be disbursed on a monthly, reimbursable basis.

All programming and visitor serving amenities funded by this grant will contain interpretation directly related to the natural and cultural resources of the site and the Los Angeles and/or Santa Monica Bay Watershed.